

Today's issue of TD

Travel Daily today has five pages of news including our PUZZLE page plus a Singapore Tourism Board full page.

QF domestic waiver

QANTAS has released a new commercial policy for domestic itineraries impacted by state and territory border closures.

The waiver is valid for customers holding a valid 081 domestic ticket issued on/before Jan 2021 for travel between 29 Jul 2020 and 28 Feb 2021, who are impacted by a change in Australian state border policy, are unable to travel due to having been in a COVID-19 hotspot in the prior 14 days, or unable to travel to Australia due to an international border closure.

Refunds are not being offered, with options including fee-free rebooking to an alternate QF flight, or retaining the ticket value in credit.

WTTC slams travel vax

THE World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) says requiring travellers to be vaccinated for COVID-19 would be akin to workplace discrimination.

Appearing on a conference panel overnight, WTTC CEO Gloria Guevara particularly singled out Qantas which has said its passengers will require COVID-19 immunisations if they want to travel internationally (**TD** 24 Nov).

Guevara told the *Reuters Next* audience "if you require the vaccination before travel, that

takes us to discrimination," with her strong views backed by AirAsia CEO Tony Fernandes.

Guevara claimed onboard protocols and air filtration meant there was "less chance of catching COVID in a plane than in a supermarket".

However a snap online poll from the conference organisers found a majority of delegates backed mandatory vaccination for travel.

Many countries - including Australia - have also already introduced compulsory pre-flight COVID-19 testing.

Singapore special

THE Singapore Tourism Board is inviting the industry to prepare for border openings by becoming a Singapore Travel Specialist.

Online training modules developed through the *Travel Daily* Training Academy are live at singaporetravelspecialist.com - see the **last page** for details.

EK US expansion

EMIRATES is resuming non-stop services from Dubai to Seattle, Dallas and San Francisco, with the additions taking EK's North American network to 10 cities.

SFO and SEA flights will operate four times a week, while DFW will resume thrice weekly.

New Cal appoints

NEW Caledonia Tourism has swapped marketing representation in Australia and New Zealand, opting to choose the services of start-up agency Nouvelle Vague Marketing headed up by industry veteran Caroline Brunel.

Brunel, who also represents Tahiti, has worked with a range of DMOs and wholesalers, on both client and agency side, in overseas markets such as France, Scandinavia and New Zealand.

Acknowledging that its former representative, GTI Tourism, did an excellent job in promoting the destination over the last seven years, New Caledonia Tourism GM Julie Laronde said she believes Nouvelle Vague Marketing will be "especially adept at navigating the brand through what is a very challenging moment in travel".

"They will be a great partner to help New Caledonia's tourism businesses forge a path to recovery," Laronde said.

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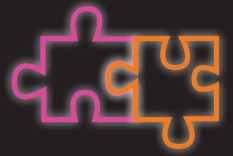
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Travel Daily

Carnival eyes rebound

CARNIVAL Corporation Chief Executive Officer Arnold Donald has said the company is working toward having all of its ships back in service by the end of the year, amid the posting of a US\$2.2 billion quarterly loss overnight.

The company is making progress toward satisfying the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention's Framework for Conditional Sailing, and has 30 vessels in American waters, but at this stage the timing of any "test cruises" under the protocol is unclear.

"2020 has proven to be a true testament to the resilience of our company," Donald said.

"With the aggressive actions we have taken, managing the balance sheet and reducing capacity, we are well positioned to capitalise on pent-up demand and emerge

a leaner, more efficient company, reinforcing our industry leading position.

"While the Framework represents an important step in our return to service, many uncertainties remain as to the specifics, timing and cost of implementing the requirements," he added.

He said the company continued to work closely with authorities across the globe to ensure compliance of its health and safety protocols.

More details available in today's issue of **Cruise Weekly**.

Endeavor on course

CRYSTAL Cruises' *Crystal Endeavor* is on track to debut in the northern summer, with production for the ship resuming after it was delayed by COVID complications back in Aug.

"We are encouraged by the progress and dedication of the professionals at MV Werften and are looking forward to introducing this remarkable ship," said Crystal interim President & Chief Executive Jack Anderson.

"As the most spacious and luxurious ship in the expedition market, *Crystal Endeavor* will offer new ways for luxury travellers to explore the world while also delivering on what Crystal does best".

Crystal Endeavor voyages are currently cancelled until Apr.

Chimu sales strong

CHIMU Adventures has reported a strong 2020 Q4 increase in its sales for upcoming Antarctica sailings.

The cruise line's co-founder, Chad Carey, said the quarter saw a move from "survival" to a point where *Ocean Endeavour's* sales were slightly higher year-on-year.

The majority of the increase was due to strong demand from the North American market, particularly during Oct and Sep, as well as the success of the local Southern Lights by Flight product in Australia (**TD** 21 Oct 2020).

Regional NSW/Vic travel restored

UNDER Victoria's new permit system (**TD** yesterday), rural New South Wales, including the Central Coast, has been reclassified as an "orange zone".

The recharacterisation means residents from Victoria are able to apply for a permit to travel to regional NSW, but will also be required to isolate on arrival home until they provide a negative COVID test result.

JQ delays MEL/BQB

THE continued border closure between Western Australia and Victoria has prompted Jetstar to delay the launch of flights between Melbourne and Busselton to 26 Jun.

The route was originally due to recommence in Feb with three direct services a week.

"We remain committed to the route and look forward to its launch as border controls are adjusted, travel demand returns and operational ramp up allows," a spokesperson for Jetstar told **Travel Daily**.

WA Premier Mark McGowan indicated he would continue to keep hard borders in place with Victoria yesterday, calling for a need to "crush and kill" COVID-19 in the state.

"Once you open a border it starts again and then there's more cases and you have to close it again," the Premier reasoned.



Window Seat

AUSTRALIANS sure know their way around a trend.

According to the ABC, Aussies have been renovating vintage caravans like never before, as the COVID-19 pandemic produces an increase in demand for domestic road trips.

Some refurbished classics are being sold for close to \$20,000, and caravan owners have taken to Facebook to share renovation tips and planning meet-ups at caravan parks across the country.

Camplify Chief Executive Officer Justin Hales said there was a general trend towards caravanning holidays, and vintage caravans represented simpler times, with vans being rented for between \$90 and \$200 on average, while more premium restorations are going for \$250 a night.



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Indonesian COVID-free travel tip

A WEALTHY Indonesian has come up with an ideal way to avoid exposure to COVID-19 while travelling - simply buy every ticket on your flight.

Jakarta-based socialite Richard Muljadi has posted a series of photos on social media, showing how he and his wife had an entire Batik Air plane to themselves on a recent trip to Bali.

The 32-year-old Mujaidi, who is the grandson of pharmaceuticals magnate Kartini Muljadi, claimed to have purchased 150 Economy class and 12 Business class seats, posting "had to make sure no one else is on this flight".

"We ain't flying unless it's just us," he said, adding that the pair were "super paranoid" about being exposed to coronavirus.

"After I'd booked as many seats as possible it was still cheaper than chartering a private jet.

"That's the trick, fellas #lifehacks," he posted.

Batik Air confirmed he had travelled on the flight, but it's unclear in what names the additional seats were purchased.

Mega Marriott deal

MARRIOTT International has signed an agreement with Vietnamese real estate developer Masterise Homes covering the management of almost 4,200 residential and "officetel" units in a mixed-use project set to open in Ho Chi Minh City in 2024.

The massive site will feature JW Marriott and Marriott-branded properties, with the company's Chief Development Officer Paul Foskey saying the signing "underscores the strong appeal of the branded residences segment, especially within the Asia Pacific region".

Event applications

ORGANISATIONS wishing to participate as buyers or sellers in upcoming business events across Australia can now register for grants of \$10,000 to \$250,000 covering up to half of their expenses.

Applications are now open for the Government's \$50 million Business Events Grants scheme which covers a list of approved events throughout 2021 - more in today's *Business Events News*.

Viking World Cruise surge



VIKING'S 2022-23 World Cruise is already selling fast, just weeks after it was announced.

The cruise is nearly sold out, the line revealed today, with 85% of staterooms already booked.

"World cruises are truly special voyages and the rate of bookings we have seen since we opened the 2022-2023 departure for sale is a sure sign of the pent up demand and the desire to cruise again," said Managing Director ANZ Michelle Black.

"With limited capacity left, our recommendation is not to wait any longer for that voyage of a lifetime," she added.

The Viking World Cruise will embark aboard *Viking Neptune* in Florida and journey to Central

America, before transiting the Panama Canal and sailing up the west coast of North America.

A shorter, 121-day World Journeys itinerary is also available, allowing guests to join *Viking Neptune* in Los Angeles and cross the Pacific Ocean to call in Hawaii, Australia (pictured), and New Zealand, before exploring ports of call in Asia and the Middle East.

To complete her journey, *Viking Neptune* will transit through the Mediterranean and conclude her voyage in London.

For more info, call 138 747.

Jamaica hits out

JAMAICA'S Minister of Tourism Edmund Bartlett is urging the United Kingdom and Canada to revise their coronavirus policies.

Bartlett said the two countries' indiscriminate strategies, which apply to all entrants of the country, citizens and non-citizens alike, will set back the recovery of small vulnerable destinations, especially those which have made considerable efforts to bolster their health and safety standards to insulate tourists from the risk of coronavirus.

Along with the United States, the United Kingdom and Canada account for 70% of all tourist arrivals in the Caribbean.

Seabourn AK & BC

SEABOURN Cruise Line is continuing with its plans to sail Alaska & British Columbia in the northern summer, with *Seabourn Odyssey* scheduled to sail on a series of newly revised, seven-day voyages between Juneau and Vancouver.

The cruise line is focusing on ensuring the experience is "different from the mainstream" for guests, visiting ports such as Alert Bay and the Inian Islands, as well as playing the hits, with calls at Ketchikan and Sitka.

Catch up on the news of the week



Travel Daily

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Bagel Day



THIS Fri 15 Jan is Bagel Day, and although the celebration only dates back to sometime in the early 2000s, bagels themselves have been around for more than 600 delicious years.

The first record of bagels was in Poland in the late 14th century, where they were handed out to women who had just given birth.

From the 16th century bagels became a staple bread in Slavic regions, and eventually headed to the rest of Europe and United States with Jewish immigrants.

It wasn't until the 1970s when bagels really gained mainstream popularity, having previously been found in the US in niche Jewish stores.

Pub quiz

- If you are riding in a songthaew, you are most likely in what country?
- Which city in Vietnam has the largest population?
- The island of Hispaniola is shared between what two countries?
- The Grasberg mine, the world's largest gold mine, is found in what country?
- Quito is the capital of which country?
- Were Antarctica to melt, approximately how many metres would sea levels rise by?
 - 6m
 - 60m
 - 35m
 - 3m
- King William Street and North Terrace are major arteries in which city?
- The Griffith Observatory is a fantastic spot to stargaze, but is also well-known for its vistas of what city?
- What Sydney destination was originally known as Long Cove?
- Yarrowonga sits on the southern bank of what river?

Unscramble

HOW many words can you make out of these nine letters? Every word needs to include the centre letter, have four letters or more and not be a proper noun or a plural. You can only use each letter once.

T	O	R
L	C	L
E	C	E

Good – 12 words
 Very good – 18 words
 Excellent – 24 words

NOTE: We've used Chambers Dictionary to decide what words are acceptable.

Famous faces



THERE are three different faces that make up this picture. They are a mixture of famous celebrities, and maybe less

famous travel names. Can you figure out who the eyes, nose and mouth in this picture belong to?

ANSWERS 11 JAN

Where in the world: Guggenheim Museum, New York, USA

Pick the nation: South Africa

Whose mascot is this: Mike VII the Tiger – Louisiana State University Tigers (all the university's sports teams)

2	9	1	4	6	3	5	8	7
7	4	3	5	2	8	6	1	9
8	5	6	7	9	1	2	3	4
3	1	7	6	5	9	8	4	2
5	6	8	2	1	4	7	9	3
4	2	9	8	3	7	1	5	6
1	3	2	9	7	5	4	6	8
6	8	5	3	4	2	9	7	1
9	7	4	1	8	6	3	2	5



Discover all the different Aboriginal cultural experiences travellers can engage in in NSW. Read more in the December issue of *travelBulletin*.

SIA pax dwindle

SINGAPORE Airlines (SIA) has recorded a 96.5% drop in passengers carried for Dec 2020 when compared to the previous corresponding period.

The load factor in Australia's region of the South West Pacific during the same month was 14%, a decrease of 73.5% on Dec 2019.

SIA's subsidiary SilkAir also saw a major drop in passengers carried and load factor, down 97% and 87.3% respectively, while budget brand Scoot's passengers carried also dropped 98.9%.

"Pax numbers remained severely constrained by border controls....that are still in place in most countries, as well as further waves of the COVID-19," the airline said in a statement.

Wyndham buys travel publisher

WYNDHAM Destinations has acquired Meredith Corporation's travel magazine *Travel+Leisure*.

The timeshare company said the acquisition would accelerate its strategic plan to build on its position as the world's largest vacation club and exchange company, and expands into new leisure travel and licensing markets.

"Over the past 18 months, we have laid the foundation to expand our footprint beyond our core vacation ownership business, and today we add one of the most trusted and influential brands in travel through the acquisition of *Travel + Leisure*," said President & Chief Executive Officer Michael Brown.

Revitalising Victoria travel



A NEW tour operator has launched in the Bellarine Peninsula in Victoria, offering local wellness tourism experiences that focus on mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing.

Revitalise Escapes was founded by local Torquay resident Jo Surkitt, who plans to use her extensive background in the wellness and tourism sector to create new travel product that will both fill an important travel need and support the recovery of the sector in Victoria.

"The new tours will boost visitor numbers to the Surf Coast and Bellarine region and, in turn, create new jobs, increase expenditure at local businesses and create positive collaboration between the businesses involved in the tours," she said.

"Revitalise Escapes is using over 25 local businesses including accommodation, food and beverages, wellness practitioners and local tourist attractions."

Travellers who book a Revitalise Escapes adventure can expect to enjoy a raft of relaxing activities such as yoga, meditation, Tai

Chi, infrared saunas, bike riding, nature hikes and forest bathing.

All product are commissionable to agents and Surkitt has flagged plans to run a special trade famil "in the near future", pending border closures.

Prices start from \$599ppts for a two-day wellness weekend by the ocean package, with tours kicking off in Mar - for info [CLICK HERE](#).

Pictured: Surkitt (three deep) takes a mindfulness walk.

Crypto discounts

CRYPTOCURRENCY services company Crypto.com has partnered with Booking.com to offer its users a range of travel and accommodation discounts.

The offers available include 25% off accommodation bookings on Booking.com, as well as an 8% rebate on travel spending when payments are made using the Crypto.com Visa Card.

Further perks for cardholders include free LoungeKey airport lounge access, free ATM withdrawals worldwide and no foreign transaction fees.

The Darling certified

THE Star Sydney has announced that its luxury suite hotel, The Darling, has become health security verified by the Forbes Travel Guide in achieving a high level of hygiene practices.

To be awarded the status, the hotel has improved its physical distancing measures, implemented more contactless processes and has compulsory COVID-19 screening at check-in.

The Darling is the first hotel in NSW to achieve the recognition.

MONEY

WELCOME to Money, *TD's* Tue feature on what the Australian dollar is doing.

AU\$1 = US\$0.770

THE United States' international relations may have seen the country's own currency rally, but it has certainly strained the Australian Dollar.

With the United States beginning the process of lifting all self-imposed restrictions on its relationship with Taiwan, and China pushing back against the move, the Australian Dollar has weakened, as it often does on the back of int'l tension.

Wholesale rates this morning.

US	\$0.770
UK	£0.570
NZ	\$1.074
Euro	€0.634
Japan	¥80.29
Thailand	฿23.26
China	¥4.99
South Africa	11.976
Canada	\$0.984
Crude oil	US\$55.99

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